

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL ADANA

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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EO 11652: NA

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SUBJECT: CUKUROVA FARMERS PROTEST GOT COTTON POLICY

1. ACCORDING LOCAL EDITION HURRIYET, ON 4 AUG ABOUT 80 FARMERS, PARADING WITH SOME 22 TRACTORS, HELD A MARCH FROM YENICE TO TARSUS TO PROTEST THE GOT'S COTTON POLICY, LOW SUPPORT PRICES, AND THE ALLEDGEDLY CORRUPT ADMINISTRATION OF CUKOBIRLIK, THE LOCAL COTTON FARMERS COOPERATIVE. DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS WERE DEMANDED IN THE LATTER.
2. COMMENT. COTTON HARVESTING IN THE CUKUROVA IS ONLY NOW BEGINNING. IN 1974 COTTON FARMER PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS HERE CAME ONLY LATER, AT THE HEIGHT OF THE PICKING SEASON AND SEEMED TO BE PROMPTED

MORE BY THE FRUSTRATION OF WAITING DAYS IN LINE WITH LOADED TRUCKS AND TRAILERS TO MARKET THEIR COTTON AT THOSE FEW MILLS WHICH WERE BUYING, THAN BY THE LOW COTTON PRICE ITSELF. THERE ARE NO LONG LINES OF LOADED COTTON TRUCKS WAITING AT THE MILLS NOW, NOR WILL THERE BE FOR A FEW WEEKS TO COME. SMALL THOUGH THIS DEMONSTRATION WAS, IT MAY WELL BE A HARBINGER OF MORE SERIOUS MANIFESTATIONS OF THE DEEPSEATED DISCONTENT OF CUKUROVA'S SMALL COTTON FARMERS OVER THE CONTINUING DEPRESSED PRICE FOR THEIR PRODUCT AND THE FAILURE OF THE GOVERNMENT, NOTWITHSTANDING CONTINUING INFLATION, TO RAISE

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COTTON SUPPORT PRICE LEVELS ABOVE THOSE OF LAST YEAR, WHICH EVEN

THEN FARMERS REGARDED AS TOO LOW.

JONES

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